

All baseball fans, even those of the Los Angeles Dodgers, can appreciate Barry Bonds' breathtaking skill, record setting performance, and commitment to his community. During a difficult time for our country, he gave us a reason to return to the ballpark and cheer him on the way to a new home run record. All over the country, fans rose from their seats for every at-bat, celebrated each home run, and even booed their own teams when they intentionally walked him.

At 37 years old, he is in the prime of his baseball career and I am sure he will amaze and dazzle us many more times in the future.

Again, I congratulate Barry Bonds for his season and thank him for all that he has done for baseball and his community. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 179—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING ENSURING QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Mr. BOND submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 179

Whereas, President George W. Bush and the United States Senate designated this week, November 11 through November 17, 2001, as National Veterans Awareness Week.

Whereas, the United States owes a great debt of gratitude to the veterans who have made untold sacrifices for our Nation;

Whereas, it is the policy of the United States to provide quality healthcare to veterans who have served our Nation in times of peace and war;

Whereas, our Nation's government has an obligation to ensure that veterans receive quality healthcare each and every day of their lives and to protect them from abuse and neglect;

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs has projected a significant increase in the demand for long-term healthcare for veterans over the next decade;

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs has projected the number of veterans age 85 and older will increase threefold, reaching nearly 1.3 million by 2010;

Whereas, the prevalence of chronic health conditions and disabilities increases markedly at advanced age;

Whereas, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act of 1999, required that the Department of Veterans Affairs provided long-term healthcare to eligible veterans

Whereas, President George W. Bush issued an executive order creating a Presidential Task Force to improve healthcare for veterans and military retirees;

Whereas, the General Accounting Office has issued a report finding that the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot be assured that all veterans will receive care in private nursing facilities that meets the standards established by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas, the General Accounting Office has found that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to strengthen its oversight of veterans placed in private nursing facilities;

Whereas, the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has reported

since 1994 about issues that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to address to improve the care of veterans in private nursing facilities;

Whereas, the Inspector General for the Department of Veterans Affairs has reported that at least one veteran died after being lost to the Department of Veterans Affairs oversight;

Whereas, the death of even one veteran due to substandard care is unacceptable: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate urges the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to work hand-in-hand with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to improve coordination among and between these agencies to provide quality healthcare for the men and women who have served in uniform, and specifically those who require long-term care; and

(2) the President and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should act promptly and deliberately to protect veterans from the dangers of abuse and neglect and to ensure that they receive the highest quality of long-term healthcare.

SENATE RESOLUTION 180—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE 17TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS IN MURCIA, SPAIN

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 180

Whereas certain marine species including Atlantic tunas, swordfish, marlins, sailfishes, and pelagic sharks migrate through broad oceanic expanses and traverse the coastal waters of many nations;

Whereas, of these highly migratory species, tuna and swordfish stocks in particular support major fisheries and are among the most highly valued of marine species;

Whereas due to the transboundary nomadic nature of these highly migratory species, effective efforts to conserve and manage these stocks require international cooperation and coordination;

Whereas the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) was established in 1966 to provide international management of highly migratory species;

Whereas the highly migratory species managed by ICCAT support extremely important commercial and recreational fisheries in the United States which are vital sources of income to United States fishing communities;

Whereas repeated violations of ICCAT conservation quotas and minimum size requirements, circumvention of compliance penalties and other actions have undermined the ability of ICCAT to establish, maintain and enforce conservation and rebuilding plans for overfished species of fish under ICCAT's management authority;

Whereas the latest scientific information suggests there is extensive mixing of bluefin tuna harvested in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean region with bluefin tuna harvested in the western Atlantic;

Whereas the current level of harvest of bluefin tuna harvested in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is excessive and must be reduced, and that due to mixing, management measures in the east directly affect the west;

Whereas a failure of ICCAT member nations to enforce quotas, size limits and other conservation measures adversely affects United States commercial and recreational fishermen: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international laws and agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to ensure ICCAT member compliance with ICCAT conservation measures and quotas, for all species under ICCAT management authority, including bluefin tuna;

(2) the United States should press for improved monitoring, recording and reporting of harvesting and compliance information by contracting and non-contracting nations to ICCAT, including systems that will increase transparency of such reporting information, in order to provide the scientific information necessary for effective management of these stocks;

(3) the United States should encourage the Commission to identify nations that engage in actions that diminish the effectiveness of the Commission's fishery conservation program, including those engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing for these stocks; and

(4) the United States should encourage the Commission to adopt recommendations authorizing the use of enforceable measures, including World Trade Organization-consistent trade measures, to prevent such nations from taking actions that would undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management recommendations of the Commission.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I rise today to submit a resolution along with my colleague Ms. SNOWE of Maine, that calls on the United States to make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international laws and agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to ensure international compliance with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, ICCAT, conservation measures for all managed species.

This week a group of committed fishery managers, scientists and industry representatives began travel overseas to represent our nation at the 17th regular meeting of the ICCAT in Murcia, Spain.

This multinational fishery conservation and management body of over 40 nations has a mandate to ensure the sustainability of all Atlantic fisheries for swordfish, billfish and a number of tuna species. Such multinational cooperation is necessary to effectively conserve and manage these species, which migrate widely on the high seas and through jurisdictions of many coastal Atlantic nations. Effective unilateral management of species that migrate through multiple jurisdictions is simply not possible, as was specifically